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FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1897.

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ADAPTATION IN PATHOLOGICAL PROCESSES.*

GRATEFUL as I am for the personal goodwill manifested by my selection as President of this Congress, I interpret this great and unexpected honor as an expression of your desire to give conspicuous recognition to those branches of medical science not directly concerned with professional practice, and as such I acknowledge it with sincere thanks.

All departments represented in this Congress are working together toward the solution of those great problems—the causes and the nature, the prevention and the cure, of disease—which have always been and must continue to be the ultimate objects of investigation in medicine. It is this unity of purpose which gives to the history of medicine, from its oldest records to the present time, a continuity of interest and of development not possessed in equal degree by any other department of knowledge. It is this same unity of purpose which joins together into a single, effective organism the component groups of this Congress, representing, as they do, that principle of specialization and subdivision of labor which, notwithstanding its perils, has been the great factor in medical progress in modern times.

Medical science is advanced not only by

* Address of the President before the Fourth Triennial Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, held in Washington, May 4-6, 1897.